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Message Text

SECRET

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43
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W
---------- 012802
R 191126Z JUL 73
FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2182
INFO CINCPAC
COMUSSAG

S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 7321

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, CB
SUBJECT: REPORTS OF PARLIAMENTARY ACTION AGAINST HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL

1. VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL CHENG HENG TELLS US THAT A GROUP OF SOCIO-REPUBLICAN PARLIAMENTARIANS UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT TAN KIM HUON HAS DECIDED TO HOLD A SECRET JOINT SESSION OF PARLIAMENT ON JULY 21 TO FORCE IN TAM AND CHENG HENG OUT OF THE HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL AND ENSURE LON NOL'S CONTINUED LEADERSHIP. WE HAVE A SIMILAR REPORT FROM DEPUTY THACH TOAN, WHO DESCRIBED THE MOVE AS A PARLIAMENTARY "COUP D'ETAT." BOTH CHENG HENG AND THACH TOAN ALSO MENTIONED PLANS TO CALL LON NON BACK FROM THE U.S.

2. WHEN WE CONFRONTED HIM WITH THIS REPORT THIS MORNING, TAN KIM HUON DENIED THAT ANY SESSSION IS BEING PLANNED (ALTHOUGH THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARY GENERAL TOLD US A JOINT SESSION TO DISCUSS INTERNAL MATTERS HAS BEEN CALLED FOR JULY 21). HE SAID PARLIAMENTARIANS ARE MEETING INFORMALLY FROM TIME TO TIME ONLY TO COORDINATE THEIR EFFORTS TO AID REFUGEES IN THEIR INDIVIDAUL CON-STITUENCIES BUT ADDED THAT THE PARLIAMENT LEADERSHIP HAS BEEN SOUNDING OUT IN TAM AND CHENG HENG ON THE POSSIBILITY
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OF A RESUMPTION OF REGULAR SESSIONS IN ORDER TO APPROVE

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THE BACKLOG OF GOVERNMENTAL DECREES. TAN KIM HUON AFFIRMED
THAT PARLIAMENT AND THE SOCIO-REPUBLICAN PARTY FULLY
SUPPORT THE HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL AND THE GOVERNMENT.
WE EMPHASIZED THAT SUCH SUPPORT IS ESSENTIAL IF CAMBODIA
IS TO WEATHER ITS CURRENT PROBLEMS.
SWANK

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TAGS: PINT, CB, (CHENG HENG), (TAN KIM HUON)
To: n/a
Type: TE
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